

COUNTY MANAGER
Nathan Bennett



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SOLID WASTE SECTION
ASHEVILLE REGIONAL OFFICE

COMMISSIONERS
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YANCEY COUNTY

110 Town Square, Room 11 • Burnsville, North Carolina 28714
PHONE: (828) 682-3971 • FAX: (828) 682-4301

January 31, 2012

Ms. Deborah Aja
NCDENR – Solid Waste Section
2090 US Highway 70
Swannanoa, NC 28778

**SENT VIA CERTIFIED MAIL
and ELECTRONIC MAIL**
to: deborah.aja@ncdenr.gov

Dear Ms. Aja:

I am in receipt of the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (NCDENR) Notice of Violation and Facility Inspection Audit Report for the Yancey-Mitchell Transfer Station dated January 20, 2012, detailing findings at the facility from January 5 and 17, 2012. Furthermore, this letter will confirm receipt of the Notice of Violation and Facility Inspection Audit Report dated November 4, 2011 which details findings observed on October 17, 2011. The Counties take these alleged issues seriously and have worked diligently to correct them to the satisfaction of the NCDENR. I have reviewed both letters in their entirety and provide this document to respond and inform you of corrective actions taken to resolve the findings in your reports.

You have noted that the Yancey-Mitchell Transfer Station is permitted to accept unpainted and untreated natural wood pallets as well as land clearing debris. The reports alleged that the facility accepted unpermitted waste at the Treatment and Processing area, including non-vegetative wastes such as painted wood, treated lumber and plastics. The County was previously advised by NCDENR to remove an estimated 400 tons of ground mulch mixed with unacceptable waste and given an original deadline of November 30, 2011 for compliance. The County and its engineering firm, Altamont Environmental, Inc. (Altamont), immediately contracted with Mike's Grading & Backhoe, Inc. to remove all mulch for proper disposal. Work to remove these materials began immediately but due to inclement weather and holiday in November the project was delayed. NCDENR was notified on November 30, 2011 that all material would not be removed due to this delay. NCDENR provided electronic notification of an approved deadline extension to December 16, 2011.

The NCDENR conducted a partial inspection to observe the corrective measures on December 6, 2011. The December 6, 2011 Facility Inspection Audit Report noted that ground unacceptable waste was observed within the remaining ground mulch. Immediately following the receipt of this Facility Inspection Audit Report, Altamont contracted with Riverside Stump Dump of Asheville to process the ground pile. All material was subsequently removed in compliance with the requirements set by NCDENR. The compliance by the County regarding the mulch was noted by you in your inspections report dated January 20, 2012, page 4, paragraph 6. There did remain a small amount of mixed mulch 4 feet high and 4 feet in diameter next to

Letter
NCDENR – Deborah Aja
RE: NOV Response
January 31, 2012
Page 2 of 2

the tractor trailer dock. I certify that this remaining waste has been removed and properly disposed of through the transfer station. Following the January 17, 2012 inspection, all wastes noted by you have been removed and the facility is in compliance with the operations permit and operations plan.

The County provides a summary of corrective actions as follows:

1. The Yancey-Mitchell Transfer Station, including the Treatment and Processing Area, continues to be operated in accordance with the Solid Waste Management rules, N.C.A.C., N.C.G.S., operations permits and the approved operations plan.
2. All unacceptable wastes from the Treatment and Processing Area have been removed to the transfer facility and properly disposed
3. The County has met the established compliance date of January 31, 2012.

The County has taken measures to attend and monitor the Treatment and Processing Area to insure these issues do not occur in the future. County staff will be on-site to observe the use of the facility and to prevent the dumping of unpermitted materials at the Treatment and Processing Area. Additionally signage will be improved directing the proper use of the facility.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide this response to your findings. Please let me know if I can provide further information or assistance.

Sincerely,



NATHAN R. BENNETT,
Yancey County Manager

CC: Charles Vines, Mitchell County Manager
Paul Dow, Altamont Environmental